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Nugan's Widow Denies Leaving Him, Terms Their Marriage Happy

By a WALL STREET JOURNAL Staff Reporter

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—Lee Nugan, widow of Australian banker Frank Nugan, said she hadn't "left" her husband before his death in January 1980, but merely went with their two children to her parents' home here the previous summer to visit because her husband was traveling a lot. She said sometimes she traveled with him, and that their marriage was happy.

Mr. Nugan was chairman of Nugan Hand Ltd., a failed private banking concern described in a series of articles on page one of The Wall Street Journal this week. The Journal reported that close friends of Mr. Nugan said he wanted her back with him in Sydney. His death was ruled a suicide.

Mrs. Nugan also denied statements by Nugan Hand liquidator John O'Brien, reported in the Journal, that she had taken \$1 million in traveler's checks with her to the U.S. Mrs. Nugan said that the reason she had resisted numerous attempts by the Journal to interview her before the articles ran was that lawyers had told her "absolutely . . . not to speak to reporters."